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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : A61K 47/48 — A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 90/12597

(43) International Publication Date: 1 November 1990 (01.11.90)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US90/02289

(22) International Filing Date: 26 April 1990 (26.04.90)

(30) Priority data:
344,109 27 April 1989 (27.04.89) US

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(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), BE (European + patent), CA, CH (European patent), DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP. LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent).

Published
With international search report.
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: FIBROBLAST GROWTH FACTOR CONJUGATES

(57) Abstract

The invention provides a conjugate comprising FGF or other polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor, and a cytotoxic agent. The cytotoxic agent can be a ribosome-inactivating protein (RIP), such as saporin, although other cytotoxic agents can also be advantageously used. The cytotoxic agent can be attached to FGF through a chemical bond or the composition can be prepared as a chimera, using techniques of recombinant DNA. The conjugate can be used to treat FGF-mediated pathophysiological conditions by specifically targeting cells having FGF receptors and inhibiting proliferation of or causing death of the cells. Additionally, the conjugate can be used to target cytotoxic agents into cells having FGF receptors, and to inhibit the proliferation of such cells. A method of purifying the conjugate on an immobilized heparin column is also provided.

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FIBROBLAST GROWTH FACTOR CONJUGATES

Background of the Invention

This invention relates to compositions which inhibit cell proliferation, and, more specifically, to fibroblast growth factor conjugated to a cytotoxic agent.

A great deal of attention has been directed towards the identification and characterization of factors capable of stimulating the growth and proliferation of specific cell types. In the last twenty-five years, a number of such mitogenic factors have been isolated. Rather than having highly specific activities as may have been originally anticipated, many such growth factors are now recognized to have multifunctional activities, affecting a wide spectrum of cell types. In addition, certain activities are shared by homologous members of a family of growth factors.

One family of growth factors now known to have a broad spectrum of activities is the fibroblast growth factors (FGF). Basic FGF is a protein which has a molecular weight of approximately 16 kD, is acid and temperature sensitive and has a high isoelectric point. A structurally related protein, acidic FGF, has an acidic isoelectric point. FGFs exhibit a mitogenic effect on a wide variety of mesenchymal, endocrine and neural cells. Of particular interest is their stimulatory effect on collateral vascularization and angiogenesis. Such mitogenic effects have stimulated considerable interest in FGF as potential therapeutic agents for wound healing, nerve regeneration and cartilage repair, for example.

Cells that respond to basic FGF have been shown to possess specific receptors on the cell surface membranes. The receptor proteins appear to be single chain polypeptides with molecular weights ranging from 110 to 150

kD, depending on cell type. The proteins bind basic FGF with high affinity (Kd = 10-80 pM), with receptor numbers ranging from 2000 to 80,000 per cell. The receptors can be purified from rat brain, using a combination of lectin and ligand affinity chromatography and are associated with tyrosine kinase activity (Imamura et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm. 155:583-590 (1988); Huang and Huang, J. Biol. Chem. 261:9568-9571 (1986), both of which are incorporated herein by reference).

On baby hamster kidney cells (BHK), two basic FGF receptors with estimated molecular weights of 110 and 130 kD have been reported (Neufeld and Gaspodarowicz, J. Biol. Chem. 260:13860-13868 (1985); Neufeld and Gaspodarowicz, J. Biol. Chem. 261:5631-5637 (1986), both of which are incorporated herein by reference). Both receptor proteins bind basic FGF and acetic FGF, although it appears that the larger binds basic FGF preferentially while the smaller has somewhat higher affinity for acetic FGF.

In addition to potentially useful proliferative effects, basic FGF induced mitogenic stimulation may, in some instances, be detrimental. For example, cell proliferation and angiogenesis are an integral aspect of tumor growth. Basic FGF is thought to play a pathophysiological role, for example, in tumor development, atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, proliferative diabetic retinopathies and other complications of diabetes.

There thus exists a need to inhibit detrimental mitogenic effects of basic FGF in certain pathological conditions. The present invention satisfies this need and provides related advantages as well.

Summary of the Invention

The invention provides a conjugate comprising basic FGF or other polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor, and a cytotoxic agent. In one embodiment, the cytotoxic agent is a ribosome-inactivating protein (RIP), such as, for example, saporin, although other cytotoxic agents can also be advantageously used. The cytotoxic agent can be attached to basic FGF through a chemical bond or the composition can be prepared as a chimera, using techniques of recombinant DNA. In both cases, the conjugate molecule is designed and produced in such a way that the receptor-binding epitope of the basic FGF moiety of the complex is left available for recognition by the FGF receptor.

The conjugate can be used to treat FGF-mediated pathophysiological conditions by specifically targeting to cells having FGF receptors and inhibiting proliferation of or causing death of the cells. Such pathophysiological conditions include, for example, tumor development, atherosclerosis, Dupuytren's Contracture, certain complications of diabetes such as proliferative diabetic retinopathies, and rheumatoid arthritis. The treatment is effected by administering a therapeutically effective amount of the FGF conjugate, for example, in a physiologically acceptable excipient. Additionally, the conjugate can be used to target cytotoxic agents into cells having FGF receptors, and to inhibit the proliferation of such cells. A method of purifying the conjugate on a heparin immobilized column is also provided.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows a heparin Sepharose chromatography of the conjugation reaction mixture.

Figure 2 shows the RIP and binding activities of the basic FGF/SAP conjugate. The activity was compared to SAP alone in a cell-free protein synthesis inhibition assay (Panel A) (SAP ■ , basic FGF-SAP ●) and the receptor binding activity was compared to basic FGF in the BHK radioreceptor assay (panel B) (basic FGF □ , basic FGF-SAP ●). Each point is the mean of 3 replicates. Standard deviations were less than 10%.

Figure 3 shows the effect of basic FGF/SAP on BHK cell proliferation. Cell counts were normalized to media controls (190,000 ± 15,000). Cell number with 10^{-8}M of the mitotoxin was 9,527 ± 980. N=3 in all instances. (basic FGF-SAP ●, SAP ■, basic FGF□, basic FGF + SAP ○).

Figure 4 shows the effect of exogenous basic FGF and NGF on cytotoxicity. Basic FGF-SAP was used at a concentration of 10^{-10} M basic FGF-SAP and C: preincubation with equimolar free basic FGF, D: 10-fold excess of free basic FGF, E: 100-fold excess of basic FGF, F: 1000-fold excess of basic FGF; G: equimolar incubation with equimolar free NGF, H: 10-fold molar excess, I: 100-fold molar excess, J: 1000-fold molar excess.

Figure 5 shows the relationship between toxicity of basic FGF-SAP and FGF receptor number, determined for each cell line after 48 or 72 hours exposure to basic FGF-SAP. Cell numbers were determined and the concentration that reduced the number of cells by 50% was plotted against receptor number for that cell line. Receptor number was determined by the method of Moscatelli et al., supra.

Figure 6 shows the effect of basic FGF-SAP on Dupuytren's Cells as described in Example IV.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention provides a conjugate comprising basic FGF or other polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor and a cytotoxic agent, which composition is effective for inhibiting growth and proliferation of cells having FGF receptors. The composition can be used to counteract the mitogenic effects of basic FGF, where such an effect is deleterious, such as in tumor angiogenesis, atherosclerosis, and proliferative complications of diabetes such as proliferative retinopathies.

As used herein, the term "FGF" refers to both basic FGF (bFGF) and acidic FGF (aFGF) and other proteins exhibiting basic FGF mitogenic activity mediated through binding to an FGF receptor. For example, a basic FGF peptide having a molecular weight of about 16 kD, and a pI of about 9.6, has been described by Esch et al. Other FGF proteins include other forms of basic FGF which have an amino terminal extension, aFGF, hst, int-2 and FGF-5. (See Baird et al., Brit. Med. Bull 45:438-452 (1989)). All express mitogenic activity in a wide variety of normal diploid mesoderm-derived and neural crest-derived cells. A test of such "FGF mitogenic activity" is the ability to stimulate proliferation of cultured bovine aortic endothelial cells, as described in Gospodarowicz et al., J. Biol. Chem. 257:12266-12278 (1982); Gospodarowicz et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 73:4120-4124 (1976), which are incorporated herein by reference. The term FGF refers both to proteins having amino acid sequences found in a mammalian host, as well as modified sequences, having amino acid substitutions, deletions, insertions or additions, which still express mitogenic activity, mediated through binding to an FGF receptor. Purified preparations of basic FGF and acidic FGF are frequently observed to include several molecular forms of the mitogens. It is understood that differences in amino acid sequences can occur in FGF

from different species as well as between FGF from individual organisms of species. The term is intended to refer to both proteins isolated from natural sources as well as those made synthetically, as by chemical synthesis or recombinant means.

The amino acid sequence of an exemplary mammalian basic FGF derived from bovine pituitary tissue is provided in Esch et al., Proc. Natl. Acad, Sci. USA 82:6507-6511 (1985), which is incorporated herein by reference. As used herein, the term "basic FGF" refers to proteins or polypeptides having substantially the same amino acid sequence and mitogenic activity as that of the basic FGF described in Esch, supra. cDNAs encoding human aFGF (Jaye et al., Science 233:541-545 (1986) and bovine (Abraham et al., Science 233:545-548 (1986), human (Abraham et al., EMBO J. 5:2523-2528 (1986); Abraham et al., Quant. Biol. 51:657-668 (1986), and rat (Shimasaki et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 1988; Kurokawa et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 16:5201 (1988)) basic FGF have been cloned, and sequenced and predict the existence of proteins identical to those found by protein sequencing.

As used herein, the term "FGF receptor" refers to receptors which are able to bind basic FGF and transport it into the cell. Included among these are the receptors described in Imamura, supra and Moscatelli, supra. As used herein, the term "polypeptide reactive with the FGF receptor" refers to any polypeptide which is capable of binding an FGF receptor and of being transported into the cell thereby.

Basic FGF is commercially available, for example, from Amgen (Thousand Oaks, CA). Basic FGF can be obtained from a variety of tissue types of mammals. For example, methods of purifying basic FGF using reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography (RR-HPLC), heparin-Sepharose affinity

chromatography and cation exchange HPLC and RR-HPLC are described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,785,079, as well as Gospodarowicz, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 81:6963-6967 (1984) and Gospodarowicz, Meth. Enzym. 147:106-119 (1987), which are incorporated herein by reference. In addition, basic FGF can be synthesized, as by chemical or recombinant methods. Expression of a recombinant protein in yeast and E. coli is described in Barr, et al., J. Biol. Chem. 263:16471-16478 (1988), which is incorporated herein by reference.

The FGF-cytotoxic agent conjugate can be purified on a column containing immobilized heparin. Appropriate columns include heparin-Sepharose and heparin-agarose. The bound conjugate can be eluted with a gradient salt, such as NaCl and is eluted between 1 and 3 M.

According to one aspect of the invention, basic FGF is conjugated to a cytotoxic agent so as to target the cytotoxic agent specifically to cells which exhibit FGF receptors. As used herein, the term cytotoxic agent refers to a molecule capable of inhibiting cell function. The term includes agents which are only toxic when transported into the cell and also those whose toxic effect is mediated at the cell surface. A variety of cytotoxic agents can be used including those which inhibit protein synthesis. In one aspect of the invention, FGF is combined with a ribosome-inactivating protein (RIP) such as, for example, saporin-6 (SAP) or other SAP derivatives. SAP is a potent RIP which is isolated from the seeds of the plant Saponaria officinalis (See Stirpe, et al., Biochem J. 216:617-625 (1983)). Other appropriate cytotoxic agents include, but are not limited to, ricin, ricin A chain, gelonin, diphtheria toxin, diphtheria toxin A chain and Pseudomonas exotoxin. In another aspect of the invention, the cytotoxic agent is a drug. Examples of such drugs are anthracyclines such as the daunomycins (including

daunorubicin and doxorubicin) and methotrexate and its analogs. Others are known to those skilled in the art.

FGF can be conjugated to a protein cytotoxic agent by means known to those skilled in the art, such as through derivitization with a reactive sulfhydryl containing moiety such as SPDP, or via a cross linking agent such as glutaraldehyde or carbodiimide. In one embodiment, the cytotoxic agent is derivatized with a reactive sulfhydryl containing agent, such as N-succinimidyl-3(2-pyridyldithio)propionate. FGF is then added to and mixed with the derivatized cytotoxic agent. The FGF conjugate can be separated from the unreacted products on a column. Alternatively, FGF can be conjugated to a drug, such as 14 bromo doxorubicin through the sugar moiety, as by the cis-aconitate method (Shen and Riser, BBRC 102:1048 (1981), which is incorporated herein by reference).

Alternatively, chimeric FGF-conjugates can be prepared by recombinant methods. Such methods as applied to conjugates of IL-2 or TGFα are provided in Chaudhary et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84:4538-4542 (1987) and Lorberman-Galski et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85:1922-1926 (1988), which are incorporated herein by reference. See also, Maniatis, et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1982), which is incorporated herein by reference.

A conjugate containing FGF and a cytotoxic agent is useful in treating a variety of FGF-mediated pathophysiological conditions. As used herein, the term "FGF-mediated pathophysiological condition" refers to a deleterious condition characterized by or caused by proliferation of cells which are sensitive to basic FGF mitogenic stimulation. Basic FGF-mediated pathophysiological conditions include, but are not limited to, tumors, atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis,

Dupuytren's Contracture and certain complications of diabetes such as proliferative retinopathy.

FGF-cytotoxic agent conjugates can be used to target the cytotoxic agent to cells expressing FGF receptors in order to cause cell death. Surprisingly, there is a direct relationship between the number of FGF receptors per cell and the dose at which 50% of the cells are killed (the ED_{50}), as is shown in Figure 5. Moreover, for cells with extremely high receptor numbers, for example, BHK cells, the ED_{50} is identical to the affinity constant of basic FGF for its receptor (both are about 25 pM for BHK cells). This unexpected result indicates that the presence of the cytotoxic agent, even such a large molecule as SAP, does not reduce basic FGF activity. Moreover, these results indicate that these cell that are expressing a large number of basic FGF receptors are particularly sensitive to the conjugate.

In order to treat FGF-mediated pathophysiological conditions, a therapeutically effective amount of FGF-cytotoxic agent conjugate is administered to a mammal in a physiologically acceptable excipient. Examples of physiologically acceptable excipient include PBS and saline.

The following examples are intended to illustrate but not limit the invention.

Example I

CONJUGATION OF FGF WITH SAPORIN

Recombinant basic FGF corresponding to the sequence of 154 amino acids (Abraham et al., Quant. Biol. 51:657-668 (1986), which is incorporated herein by reference, was obtained from Farmitalia Carlo Erba. Saporin-6 was purified according to the method of Stirpe, et al., supra,

as modified by Lappi, et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm. 129:934-942 (1985), which is incorporated herein by reference. Briefly, seeds of Saponaria officinalis were extracted by grinding in 0.14 M NaCl in 5 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.2 (8 ml/g). After overnight stirring at 4°C, extracts were strained through cheese-cloth and were centrifuged at 28000 g for 30 minutes. The supernatant was separated from the sediment and from floating fat, and is referred to as "crude extract."

Crude extracts were dialyzed against 5 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 6.5 centrifuged at 28000 g for 30 minutes and applied to a CM cellulose column (CM 52; Whatman, Maidstone, Kent, U.K.), which after washing, was eluted with a 0-0.3 M NaCl gradient in the same buffer. This material was then dialyzed against water and chromatographed on an FPLC Mono S column (Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden) equilibrated with 50 mM sodium borate pH 9.5, 0.156 M sodium chloride. The protein was eluted with a 20 minute gradient from 0.156 M to 0.186 M sodium chloride. The resultant peak material was then extensively dialyzed against Milli-Q water (Millipore, Bedford, MA). A portion of the dried material was weighed and dissolved in water at a concentration of 1 mg/ml. An ultraviolet spectrum was recorded giving a 1% extinction coefficient of 6.4 at 277 nm, the absorbance maximum. At 280 nm the E_{280} was 6.0. Protein assay using the Lowry method (Lowry, et al., J. Biol. Chem. 193:265-275 (1951) using BSA as a standard gave a result of 1.07 mg/ml.

SAP was derivatized with N-succinimdyl-3(2-pyridyldithio)propionate (SPDP; Pharmacia Fine Chemicals, Piscataway, NJ) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, SAP was dissolved in (2.7 mg/mL) in sodium phosphate buffer (0.1M, pH 7.5) containing NaCl (0.1 M). A 1.25 molar excess of SPDP, dissolved ethanol, was added by drop while stirring, and allowed to react for

30 minutes at 23°C with occasional stirring. Excess reagent and low molecular weight reaction products were removed by gel filtration. basic FGF (2 mg/ml) was added to and mixed with the derivatized saporin (6 mg/ml in 0.1 M sodium phosphate, 0.1 M sodium chloride, pH 7.5) for two hours at room temperature. The reaction was terminated by the addition of 35 μL of 0.1 M iodoacetamide. After an additional 30 minutes, the reaction mixture was diluted to 30 ml and loaded onto a heparin-Sepharose (Pharmacia) column (0.5 x 5.5 cm). The bound proteins were eluted with a step gradient of 0.6 M, 1 M and 2 M NaCl in 10 mM TRIS, pH 7.4. The material eluting between 1 M and 2 M was pooled. Final purification of the conjugate was achieved after the pool was dialyzed against water and chromatographed on a Mono S 5/5 NaCl cation exchange column (Pharmacia) (buffer A: 50mM sodium borate, pH 8.0, buffer B:0.5 M NaCl in buffer A). Fractions containing the conjugated were detected by silver staining after PhastGel (Pharmacia) electrophoresis and appropriate fractions were pooled for analysis.

Synthesis of the conjugate was assessed by gel electrophoresis and allowed to proceed until no detectable basic FGF remained in the reaction mixture. Chromatography on heparin-Sepharose (Figure 1) and subsequent electrophoretic analysis of each of the peak fractions showed that while SAP does not bind to heparin-Sepharose, the conjugate does. Only small amounts of the conjugate were released during the 1.0 M NaCl wash. The major product eluted with the 2 M wash and contained equimolar amounts of SAP and basic FGF (Mr-40,000). However, there was also a portion of the conjugate that has an estimated Mr>68,000 presumably as a result of the conjugation of two molecules of basic FGF per molecule of saporin.

Unambiguous identification of the SAP-basic FGF conjugate was accomplished using sequence specific antisera

raised in rabbits. The immunogen used was a fragment of basic FGF comprising amino acids 1 through 24, chemically synthesized using a 990 Peptide Synthesizer (Beckman Instruments, Brea, CA). Western blot analysis showed that all molecular weight forms of the conjugate contained both basic FGF and SAP. The antiserum recognizes the mid portion of the peptide and cross-reacts on equimolar basis with purified bovine and recombinant human basic FGF.

Samples in a sodium dodecyl sulfate-containing polyacrylamide gel, after electrophoresis, were electroblotted onto nitrocellulose membranes, and allowed to air dry. The membrane was covered with TRIS buffered saline (TBS) and agitated for 10 minutes. The solution was aspirated and discarded. The membrane was covered with 5% nonfat milk (NFM) in TBS and agitated for 10 minutes. The solution was aspirated and discarded. Primary antibody, either anti-SAP or anti basic basic FGF anti-serum, at a concentration of 1/1000 in NFM/TBS was added and agitated overnight. The solution was aspirated and discarded. The membrane was covered with TBS, agitated for 10 minutes and the solution aspirated and discarded. The membrane was covered with 0.05% NP40/TBS and shaken 1 minute; the solution was aspirated and discarded. The final TBS and NP40/TBS washes were replated twice. Horseradish peroxidase labelled anti-IgG at a dilution of 1/2000 in NFM/TBS was added and the membrane agitated for 2 hours. The TBS and NP40/TBS wash steps were repeated. The membrane was placed in a solution (freshly mixed) 60 mg 4-chloro-1-naphthol in 20 mL methanol and 100 mL double distilled water and 10μL 30% H_2O and the solution added to the membrane and allowed to develop. The solution was aspirated and discarded and the reaction stopped by rinsing with water. The membrane was allowed to dry.

Example II

ACTIVITY OF THE FGF/SAP CONJUGATE

The capacity of the conjugate to recognize the basic FGF receptor was examined in BHK cells using the procedure described by Moscatelli, et al., J. Cell Physiol. 131:123-130 (1987), which is incorporated herein by reference. Briefly, cells were grown to subconfluence and incubated in 300 μL buffer containing F-12 14 mM $NaHCO_3$, 25 mM HEPES and 0.2% gelatin at 4° C for two hours with 10 μL radioiodinated basic FGF in the presence of various concentrations of basic FGF or the conjugate. The cells were then washed three times with 0.5 mL phosphate buffered saline (PBS), and twice with 2M NaCl in PBS. Binding to the high affinity receptor was determined by counting the membrane fraction that was solubilized 0.5% Triton X-100 in PBS (pH 8.1).

The protein synthesis inhibition activity of the SAP protein was compared to the protein synthesis inhibition activity of the basic FGF/SAP conjugate in in vitro assays of protein synthesis as described in Siehn et al., Blood 72:756-765 (1988), which is incorporated herein by reference. The cytotoxic activity of the conjugate was tested on baby hamster kidney fibroblasts (ATCC Accession No. CRL 6281). BHK cells were plated in 24 well plates at a concentration of 5000 cells/ml and incubated overnight at 37°C, 5% CO_2. The following morning HEPES-buffered DMEM and F-12 media (1:1) plus 5% FCS was aspirated from the wells and replaced with media alone or with media containing the conjugate, basic FGF or saporin. Two days later, the cells were washed twice, trypsinized and cell number determined with a Coulter Particle Counter (Coulter Electronics, Hialeah, FL).

As shown in Figure 2A the conjugate retains saporin activity when tested in an in vitro protein synthesis

inhibition assay. The conjugate, as expected, is slightly less active (about two-fold) than free SAP. This is consistent with the low level of derivatization of SAP prior to the conjugation (0.8 moles SPDP/mole) and with probable steric hindrance due to the presence of bound basic FGF. In contrast, the results obtained in the radioreceptor assays for basic FGF (Figure 2B) showed that the basic FGF/SAP is equipotent to, if not slightly more active than, basic FGF in the binding assay. Thus, it appears that the commitment of free sulfhydryl groups in basic FGF to bridging with SAP does not interfere with its capacity to recognize its receptor. If anything, this reaction may be stabilizing basic FGF.

Basic FGF/SAP is a potent cytotoxic factor for BHK cells (Figure 3). SAP has no toxic effect on these cells even at the highest dose tested (10^{-8}M) and basic FGF alone has a slight inhibitory effect on proliferation. A mixture of basic FGF and SAP had a slight toxicity but only at the highest concentration tested. The ID_{50} (25 pM) for the cytotoxic agent compares well with the potency of basic FGF (15 pM) in proliferation assays. Specificity of the cytotoxic agent was examined in competition experiments in an effort to establish that the mitotoxic activity of the conjugate is receptor specific. BHK cells were preincubated for one hour with various levels of basic FGF or nerve growth factor (NGF) prior to treatment of the cells with the cytotoxic agent. As shown in Figure 4, there is a dose-related inhibition of the cytotoxic activity in the presence of increasing amounts of basic FGF. In contrast, a thousand-fold excess of NGF has no effect.

EXAMPLE III

INHIBITION OF ANGIOGENESIS IN RABBIT CORNEA

Elvax (ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer resin, Dupont, Wilmington, DE) pellets were produced in the following manner. About 60 mg of washed and dried Elvax was dissolved in 500 μL of methylene chloride. This was added to 50 μg of dried basic FGF. 5 μL drops were dropped onto a slide frozen in dry ice. Pellets were left in the freezer overnight and then dried in a desiccator.

New Zealand white rabbits were anaesthetized with Innovar Vet: 1 mL/kg. An incision was made in the cornea of the rabbit eye and a pocket was opened with a spatula or forceps. One pellet was inserted in the pocket. Pellets were inserted in both eyes. The eye was washed with saline and 1 ml of gentamicin was injected intramuscularly. The rabbit was left for five days and angiogenesis was observed. After five days, each left eye was treated with 20 μL of 100 ng basic FGF-SAP prepared as in Example I in 0.25% BSA. The right eyes were treated with 20 μL of 0.25% BSA alone. The treatment was done twice daily by dropping the solution as eye drops onto the cornea of the rabbit. The person treating the animals was unaware of the identity of the samples. After 10 days, the animals were evaluated for angiogenesis of the cornea by microscopic analysis by an evaluator who did not know the treatment regimen. Angiogenesis was judged with +++ as being maximal angiogenesis and - as being no angiogenesis.

The results are provided in Table I. As can be seen, angiogenesis in corneas treated with basic FGF-SAP was markedly reduced over that of controls.

TABLE I

ANIMAL	RIGHT EYE	LEFT EYE
995	+	-
997	+ + +	+
998	+ + +	+
999	+ +	-

EXAMPLE IV

EFFECT OF FGF-SAP IN DUPUYTREN'S CELL

Cells obtained from surgical removal of tissue from the hand of adult patients diagnosed as having Dupuytren's Contracture, a malady effecting movement of the hand, were placed in primary culture. These cells have between 10,000 and 15,000 basic FGF receptors per cell.

The cells were grown overnight in a 24 well tissue culture dish at a concentration of 10,000 cells per well in HEPES buffered DMEM with 10% FCS. The next morning the media was removed and replaced with media containing concentrations of basic FGF-SAP conjugate ranging from 10^{-8} to 10^{-12} molar. Controls included wells treated with media only, wells treated with similar concentrations of basic FGF alone, saporin alone, and basic FGF and saporin together but not conjugated. The cells were returned to the incubator for 72 hours. At the end of this incubation the cells were washed, removed with trypsin and counted on a Coulter cell counter. The number of cells in the media controls was compared with the number of cells in the treated wells (as described above). The results of these cell killing assays are shown in Figure 6. As can be seen, Dupuytren's cells are sensitive to basic FGF-SAP. Similar results were obtained with three other cell samples.

Although the invention has been described with reference to the presently-preferred embodiments, it should be understood that various modifications can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is limited only by the following claims.

We Claim:

1. A conjugate comprising a cytotoxic agent and a polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor.

2. The conjugate of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor is basic FGF.

3. The conjugate of claim 1 wherein said polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor is selected from the group consisting of acidic FGF, hst, int-2 and FGF-5.

4. The conjugate of claim 1 wherein said cytotoxic agent is a ribosome-inactivating protein.

5. The conjugate of claim 4 wherein said cytotoxic agent is saporin.

6. The conjugate of claim 1 wherein said cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of methotrexate and daunomycin.

7. A method of targeting a cytotoxic agent to cells having FGF receptors, comprising conjugating said cytotoxic agent to a polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor and providing said conjugate to said cells.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor is basic FGF.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor is aFGF.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein said cytotoxic agent is a ribosome-inactivating protein.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein said cytotoxic agent is saporin.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein said cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of methotrexate or its analogs and anthracyclines such as daunomycin.

13. A method of treating an FGF-mediated pathophysiological conditions, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of FGF conjugated to a cytotoxic agent.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said FGF-mediated pathophysiological condition is selected from the group consisting of tumors, atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and proliferative retinopathy.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein said polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor is basic FGF.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein said polypeptide reactive with an FGF receptor is aFGF.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein said cytotoxic agent is a ribosome-inactivating protein.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein said cytotoxic agent is saporin.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein said cytotoxic agent is selected from the group consisting of methotrexate and daunomycin.

20. a method of inhibiting proliferation of cells having FGF receptors, comprising administering to said cell a conjugate comprising FGF and a cytotoxic agent.

21. A pharmaceutical comprising the conjugate of claim 1 and a physiologically acceptable excipient.

22. A method of purification of conjugates including a growth factor and a cytotoxic agent comprising the steps of:

applying a sample containing FGF-conjugate to an immobilized heparin column;

eluting the column with a salt gradient; and

collecting the material eluted between 1 M and 3 M salt gradient.

FIG. 1

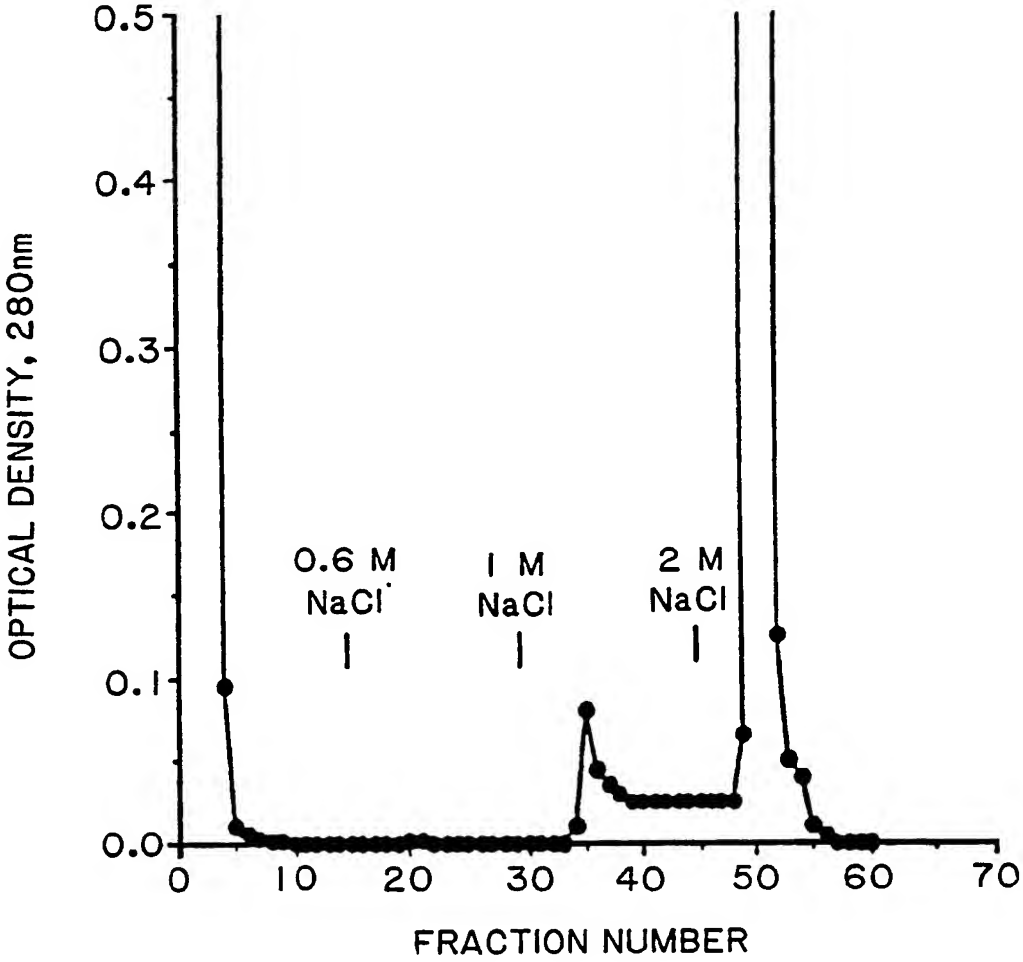

0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
OPTICAL DENSITY, 280nm
0.6 M NaCl
1 M NaCl
2 M NaCl
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
FRACTION NUMBER

FIG. 2A

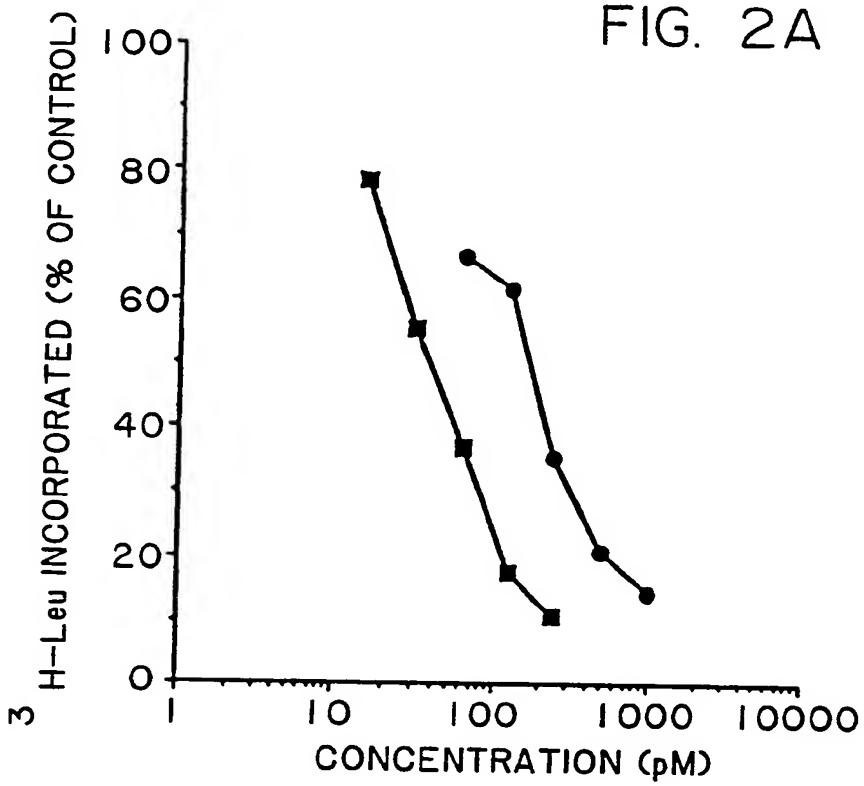


FIG. 2B

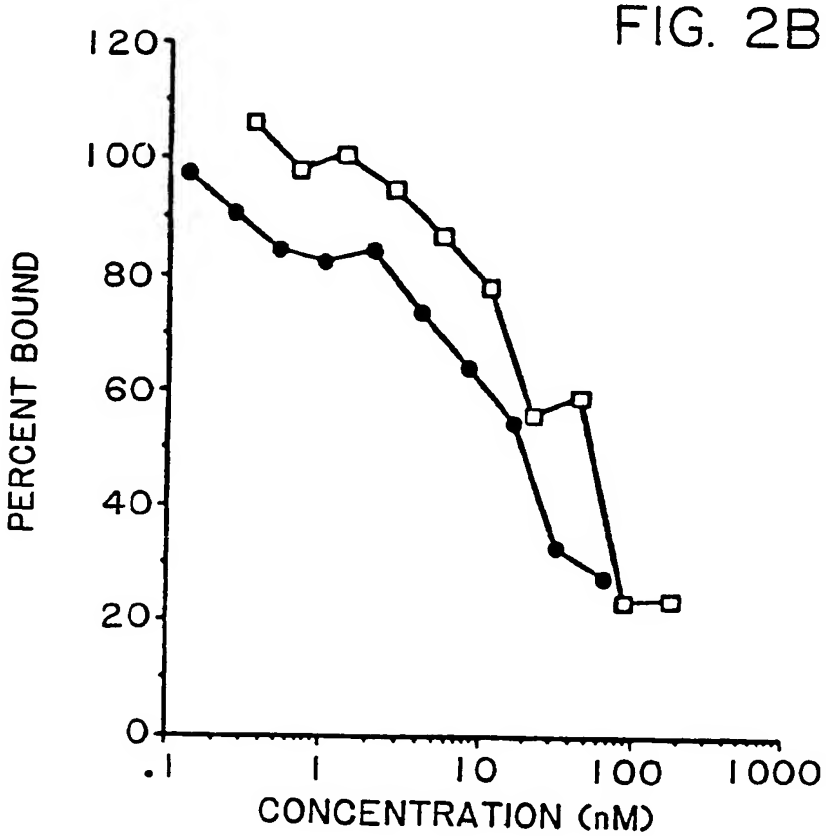


FIG. 3

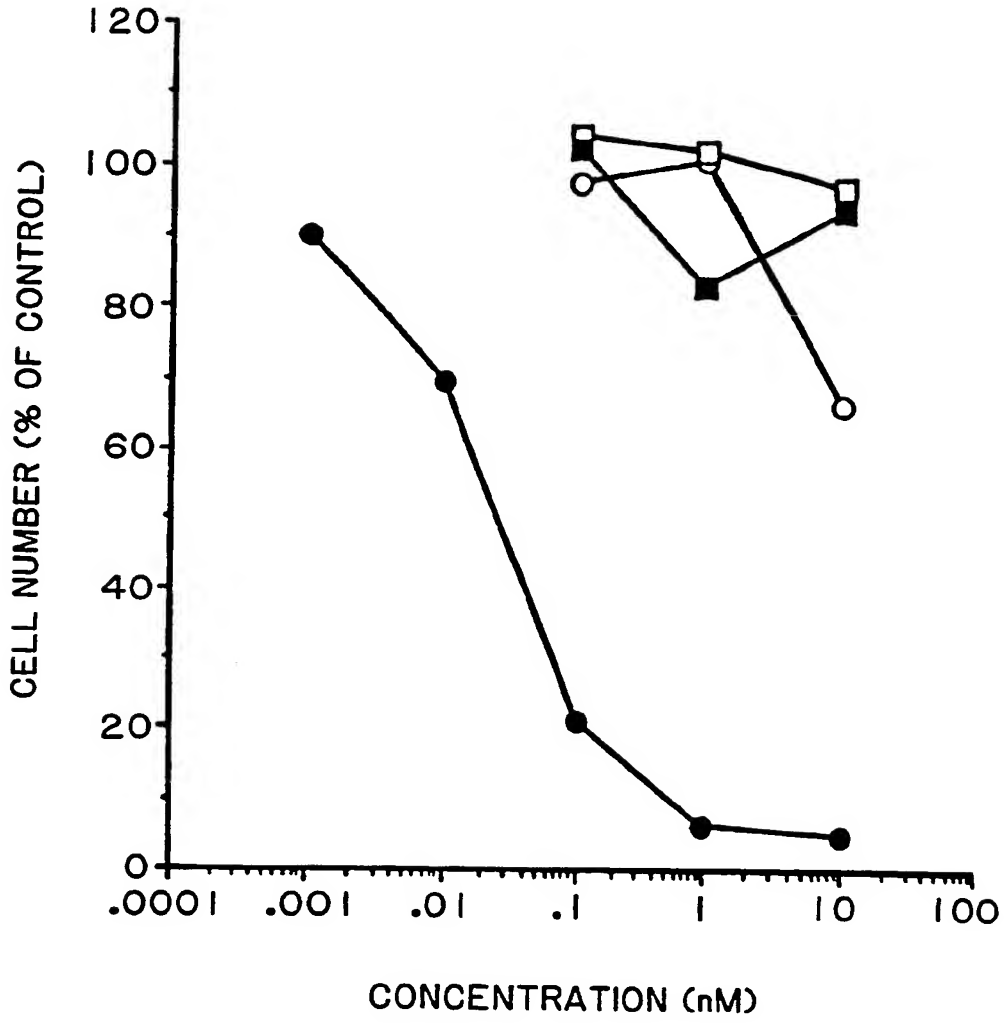

120
100
80
60
40
20
0
CELL NUMBER (% OF CONTROL)
.0001
.001
.01
.1
1
10
100
CONCENTRATION (nM)

FIG. 4

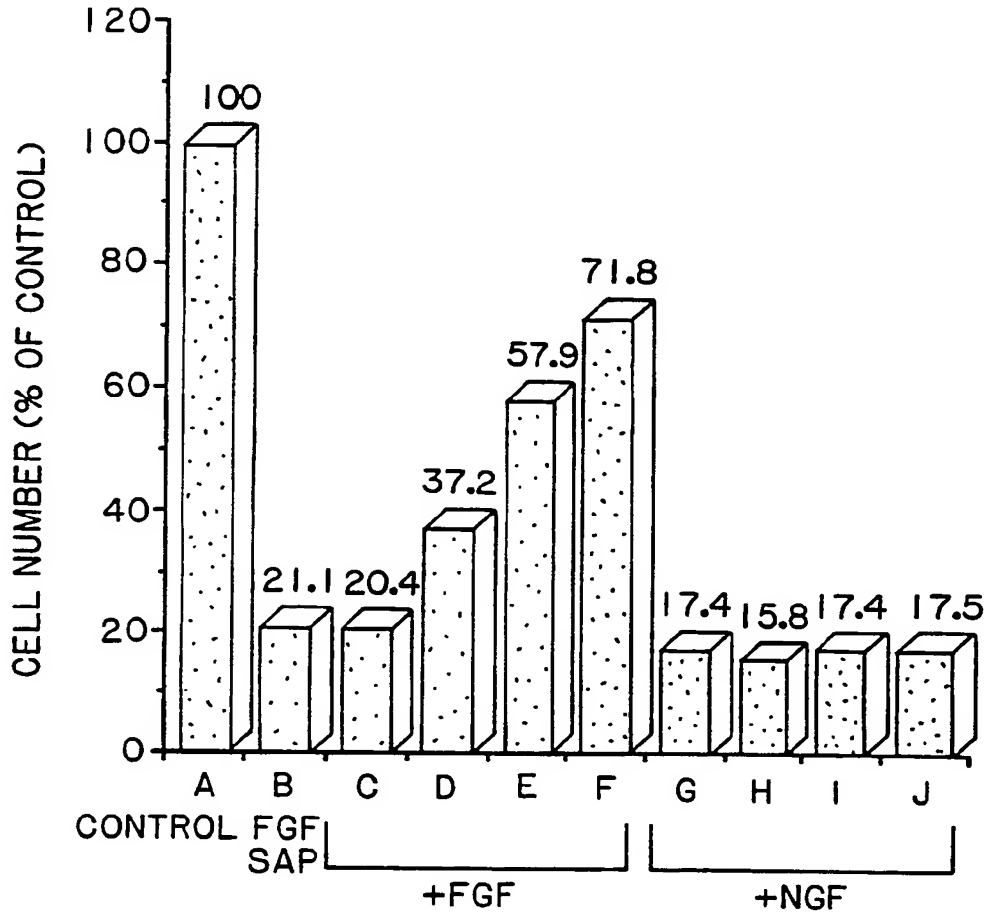


FIG. 5

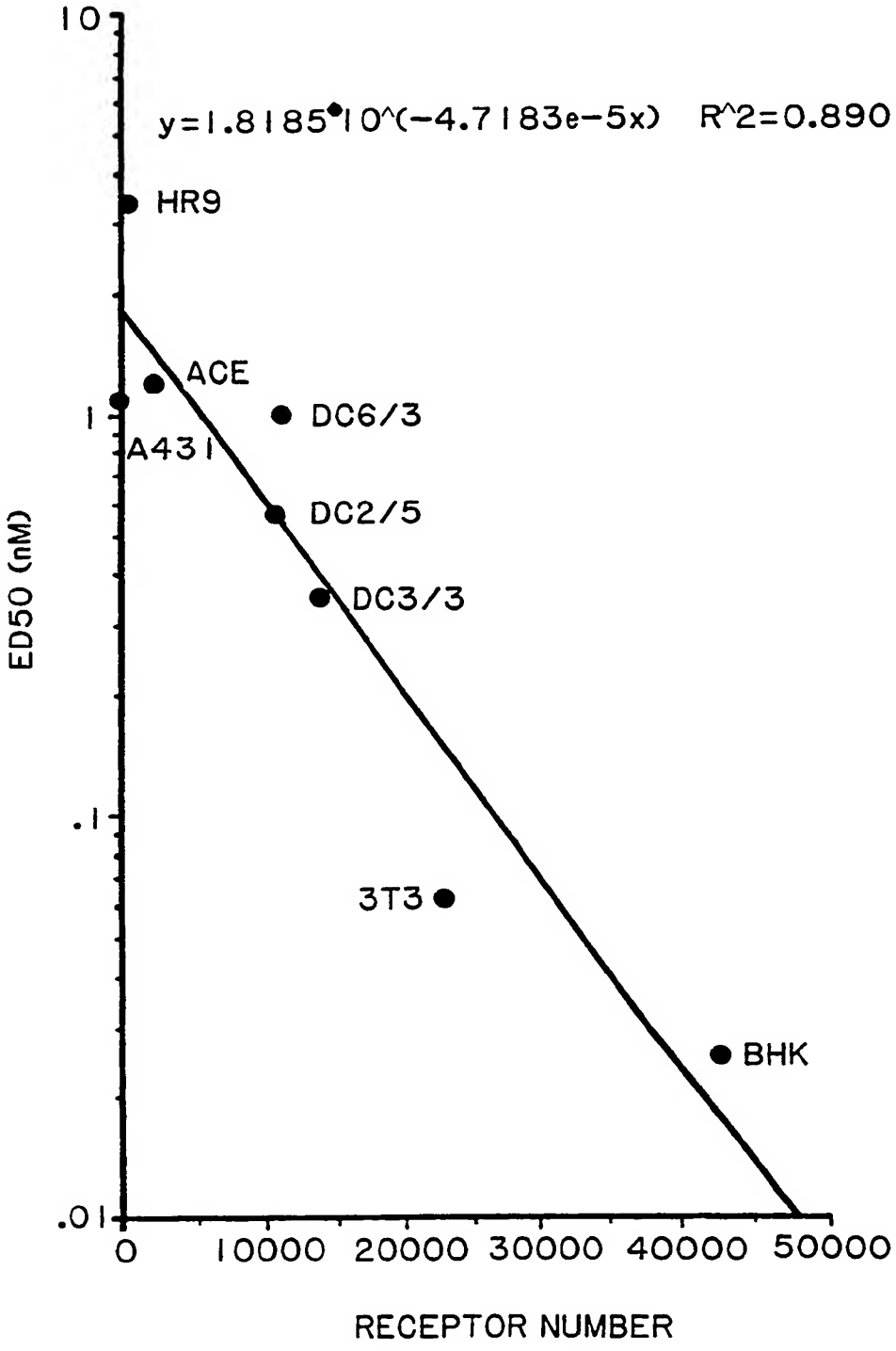
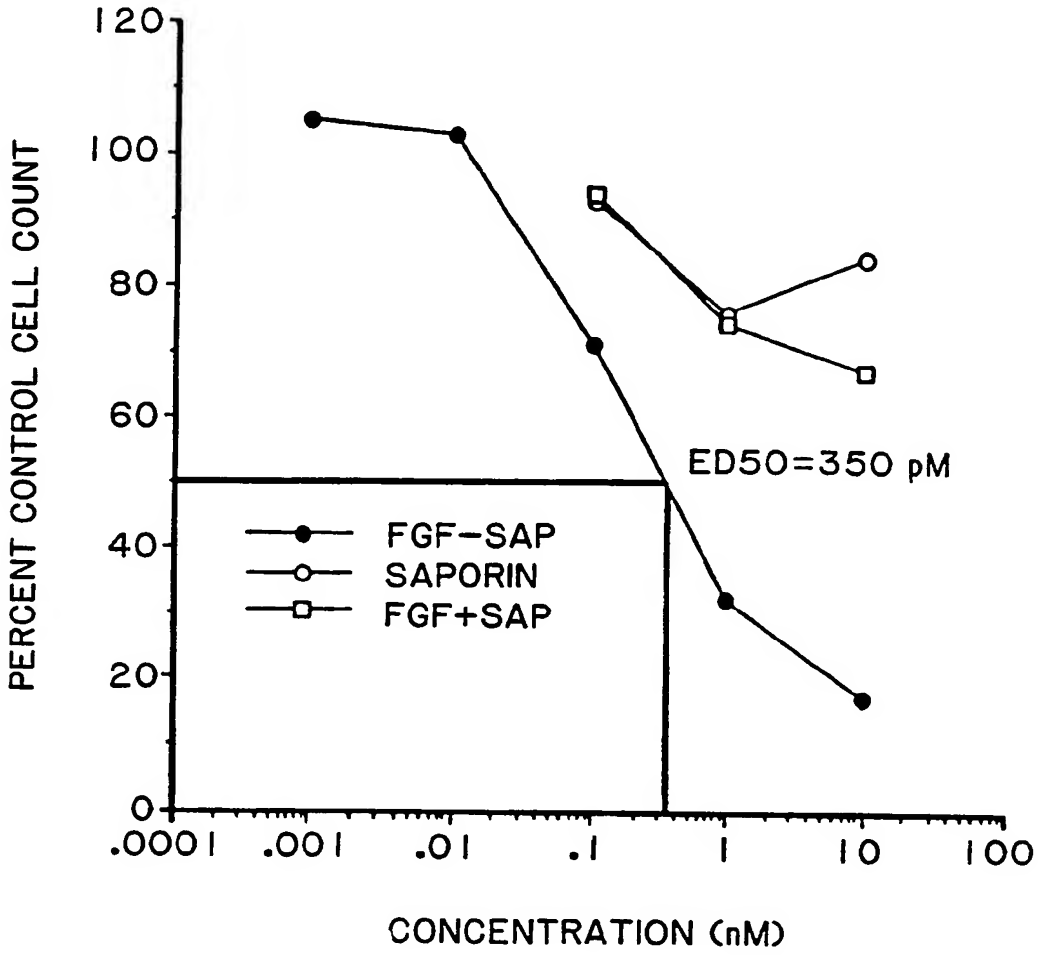

10
y=1.8185*10^(-4.7183e-5x) R^2=0.890
HR9
ACE
1
DC6/3
A431
DC2/5
DC3/3
ED50 (nM)
.1
3T3
BHK
.01
0
10000
20000
30000
40000
50000
RECEPTOR NUMBER

FIG. 6



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US 90/02289

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) [6]

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

IPC[5]: A 61 K 47/48

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched [7]

Classification System	Classification Symbols
IPC[5]	A 61 K, C 12 P

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched [8]

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT [9]

Category *	Citation of Document, [11] with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages [12]	Relevant to Claim No. [13]
Y	Science, vol. 235, 23 January 1987, (Washington, DC, US), J. Folkman et al.: "Angiogenic factors", pages 442-447, see page 443, left-hand column, line 25 - page 444, left-hand column, line 18 --	1-12,20-22
Y	EP, A, 0259904 (BATTELLE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE) 16 March 1988 see claims --	1-12,20-22
A	Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, vol. 84, July 1987, (Washington, DC, US), V.K. Chaudhary et al.: "Activity of a recombinant fusion protein between transforming growth factor type alpha and Pseudomonas toxin", pages 4538-4542 --	

./.

* Special categories of cited documents: [10]

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report
27th July 1990	21.09.90
International Searching Authority	**Signature of Authorized Officer**
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	F.W. HECK

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)

Category *	Citation of Document, ** with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
A	J. Natl. Cancer Inst., vol. 80, no. 13, 7 September 1988, (Bethesda Md, US), R. Taetle et al.: "Effects of anti-epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor antibodies and an anti-EGF receptor recombinant-ricin A chain immunoconjugate on growth of human cells", pages 1053-1059	
	--	
P,X	Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun., vol. 160, no. 2, 28 April 1989, (New York, US), D. Lappi et al.: "Biological and chemical characterization of basic FGF-saporin mitotoxin", pages 917-923 see the whole article	1-12,20-22

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

V. [X] OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE [1]

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. [X] Claim numbers *..... because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

* 13-19 see PCT Rule 39.1 (iv): method of treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy as well as diagnostic method

2. [ ] Claim numbers....., because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. [ ] Claim numbers....., because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. [ ] OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING [2]

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

1. [ ] As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.

2. [ ] As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:

3. [ ] No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:

4. [ ] As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Remark on Protest

[ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.

[ ] No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. US 9002289 SA 36868

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 14/09/90
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A- 0259904	16-03-88	AU-A- 7788787	24-02-88
		WO-A- 8800837	11-02-88
		JP-T- 1500435	16-02-89

EPO FORM P0479

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

FIG. 1

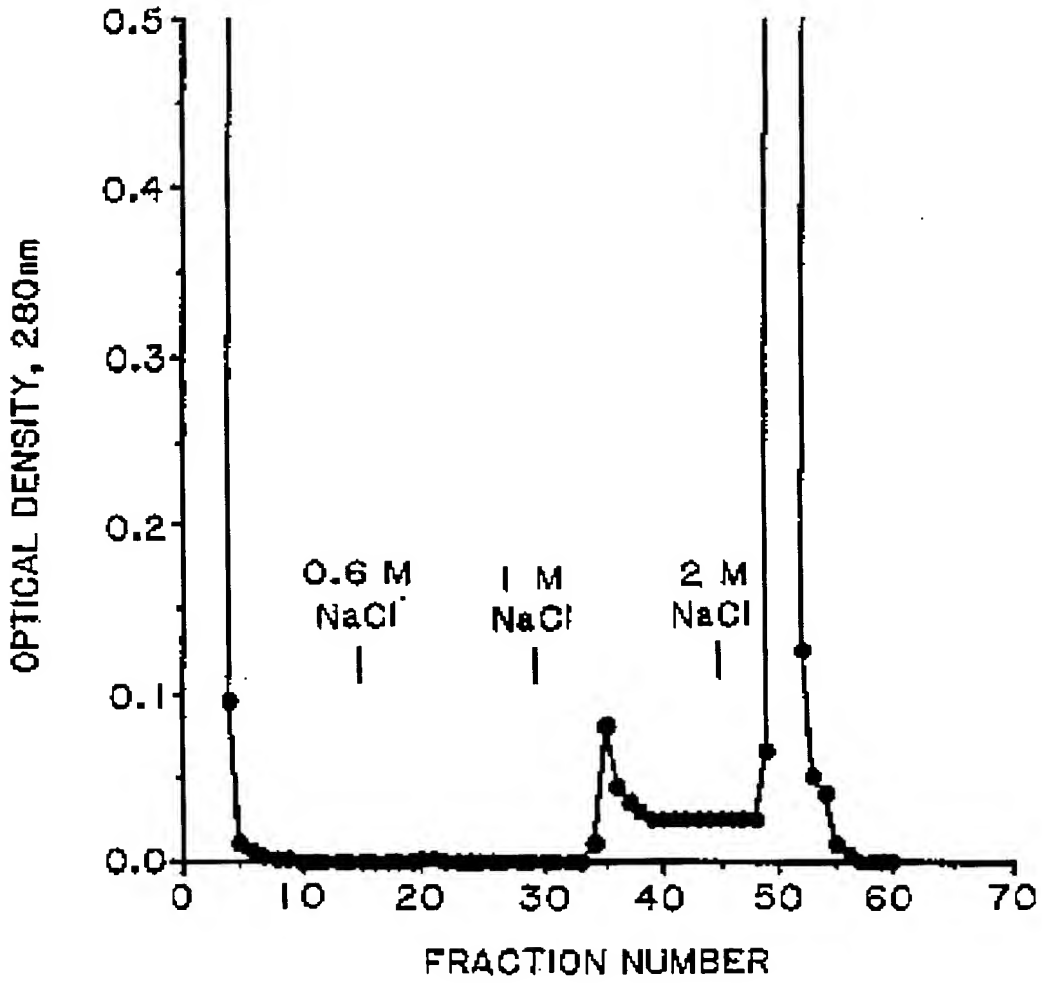

OPTICAL DENSITY, 280nm
0.5
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
0.0
0.6 M NaCl
1 M NaCl
2 M NaCl
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
FRACTION NUMBER

FIG. 2A

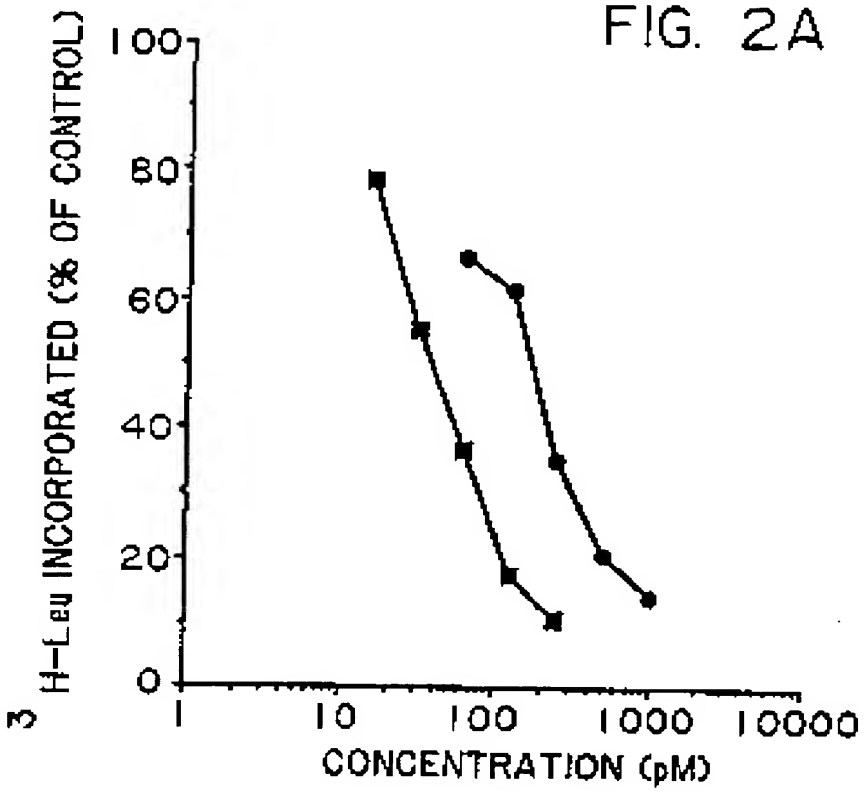


FIG. 2B

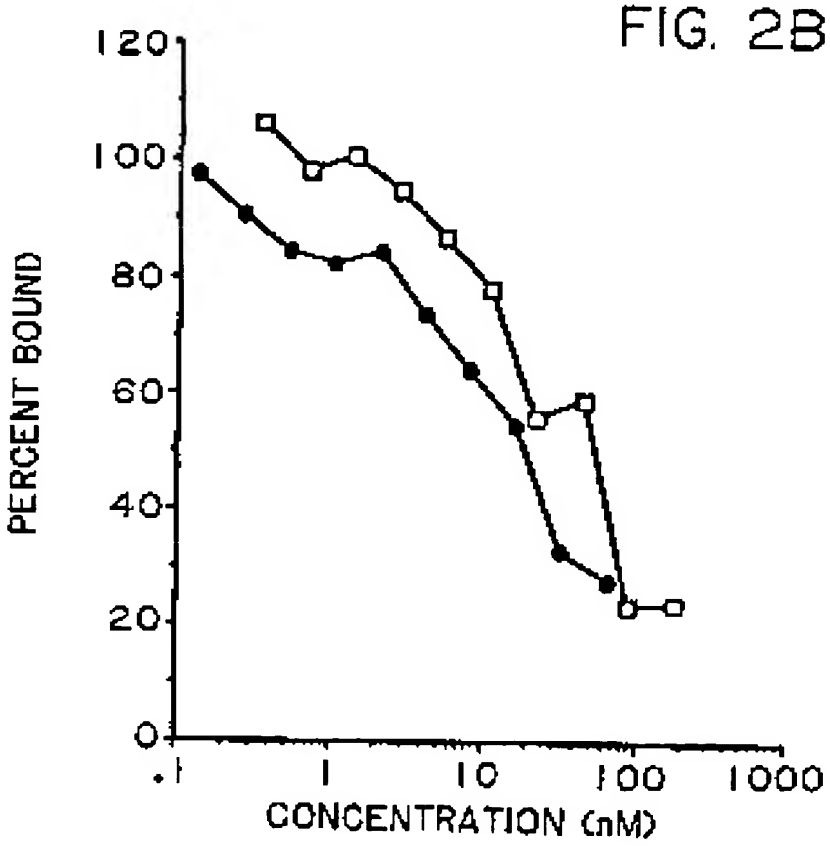


FIG. 3

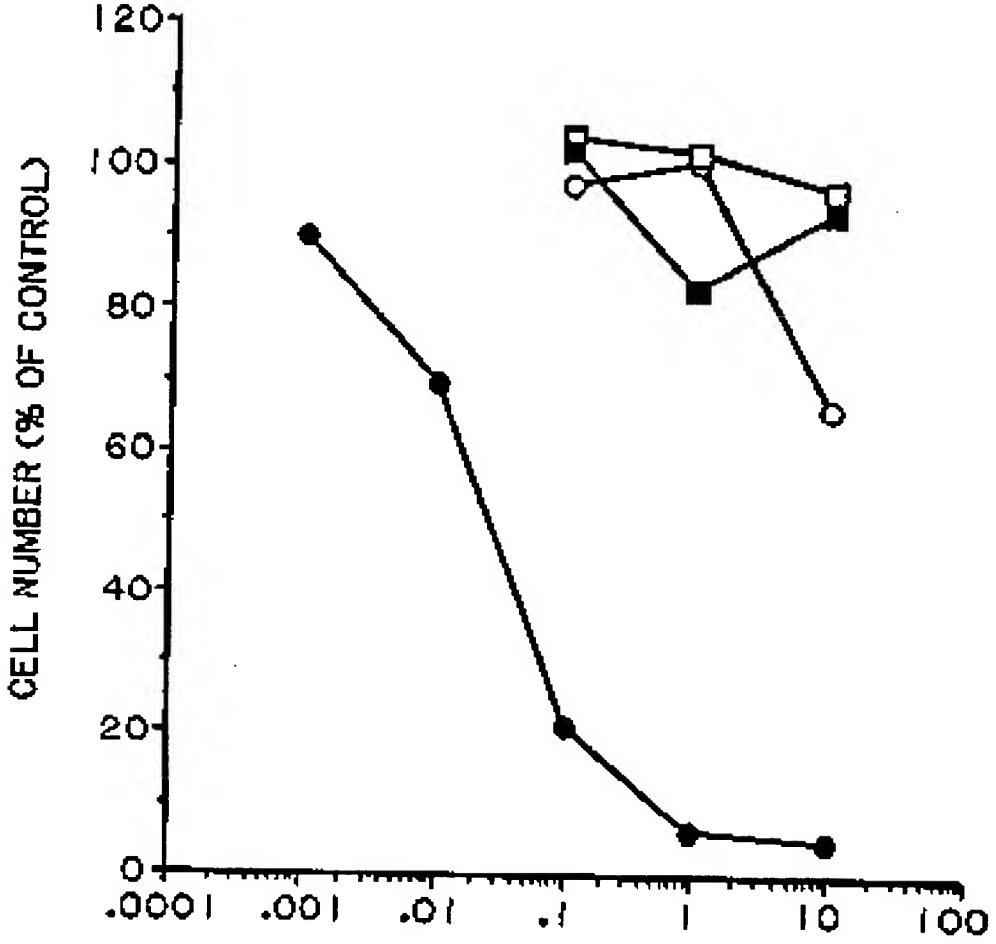

120
100
80
60
40
20
0
CELL NUMBER (% OF CONTROL)
.0001
.001
.01
.1
1
10
100
CONCENTRATION (nM)

FIG. 4

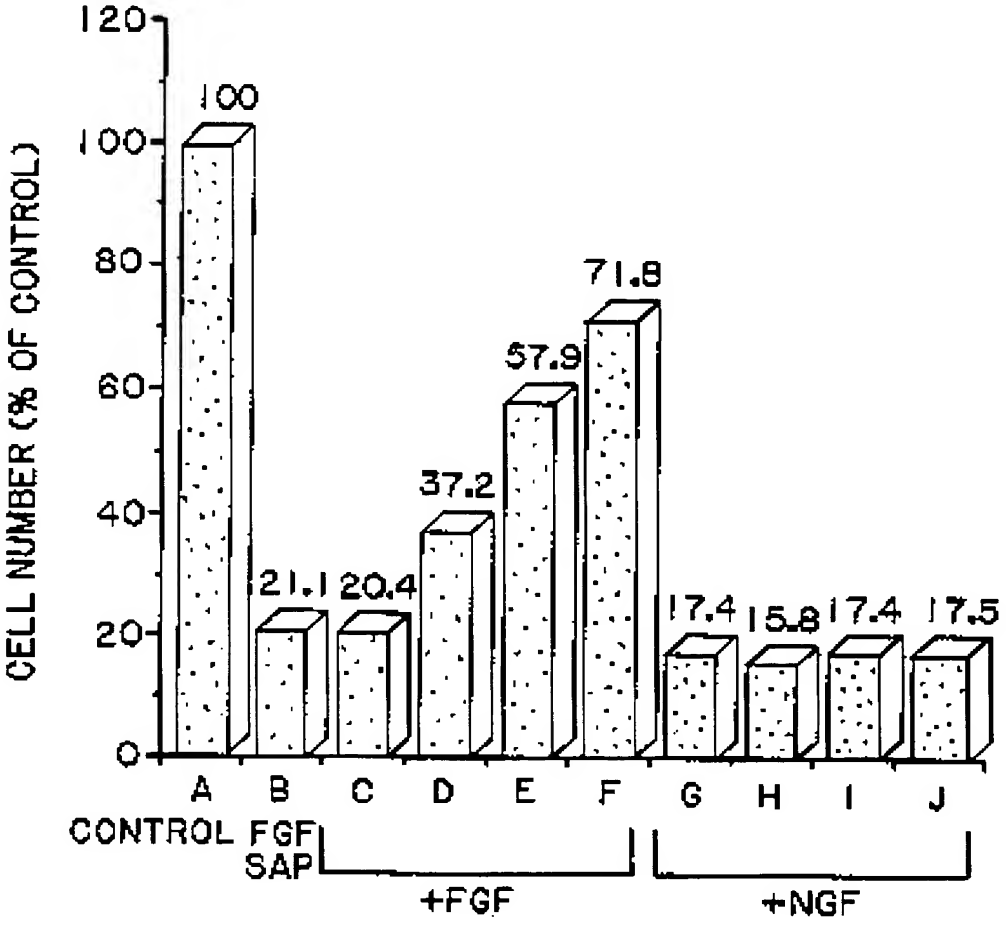


FIG. 5

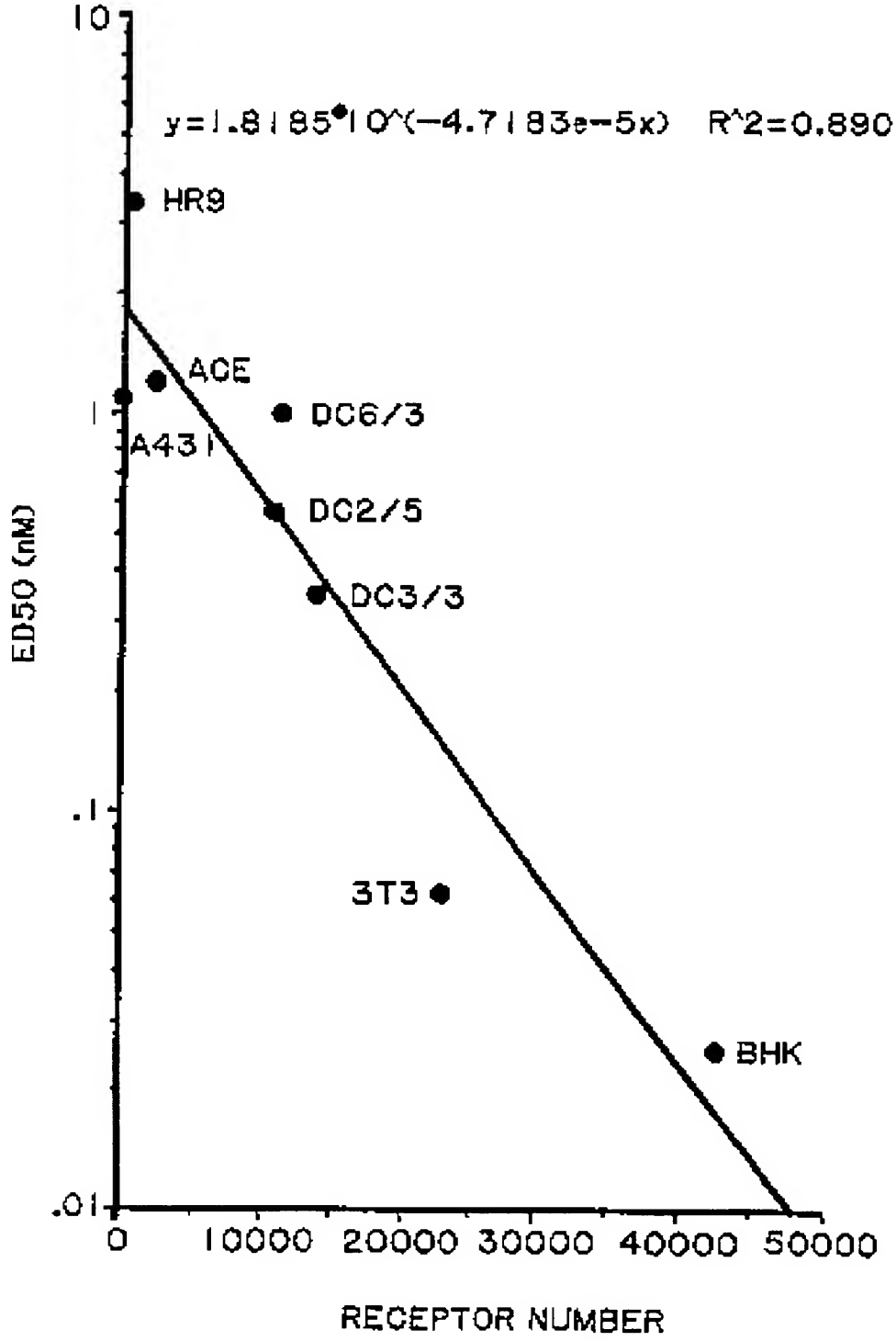

10
y=1.8185*10^(-4.7183e-5x) R^2=0.890
HR9
ACE
DC6/3
A431
DC2/5
DC3/3
ED50 (nM)
1
.1
3T3
BHK
.01
0
10000
20000
30000
40000
50000
RECEPTOR NUMBER

FIG. 6